

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A coating apparatus for an optical lens according to claim 1, comprising:

a coating device which applies a coating solution to a coating target surface of an optical lens;

a light beam radiating device which emits a light beam to the coating solution applied to the optical lens to cure the coating solution; and

a lens rack which stores a set of two optical lenses and conveys the stored optical lenses from a coating position to a curing position of the coating solution,

said coating device comprising two rotary tables where the set of two optical lenses are set each with the coating target surface thereof facing up, a driving device which rotates said rotary tables independently of each other, and two coating solution dripping means each for dripping the coating solution onto the coating target surface of the optical lens set on said rotary tables,

wherein said light beam radiating device emits the light beam to the optical lenses in said lens rack with said lens rack being hermetically closed;

characterized in that

    said light beam radiating device comprises a light source stored in a housing and a transparent member which covers an opening of said housing on a irradiation direction side and transmits the light beam emitted from said light source therethrough, and

    said lens rack has a storing portion in and from which the optical lenses can be stored and extracted, said storing portion having such a shape as to be closed when said lens rack is brought into tight contact with said transparent member through a seal member.

3. (Currently Amended) A coating apparatus for an optical lens according to claim 1, comprising:

a coating device which applies a coating solution to a coating target surface of an optical lens;

a light beam radiating device which emits a light beam to the coating solution applied to

the optical lens to cure the coating solution; and

a lens rack which stores a set of two optical lenses and conveys the stored optical lenses from a coating position to a curing position of the coating solution,

said coating device comprising two rotary tables where the set of two optical lenses are set each with the coating target surface thereof facing up, a driving device which rotates said rotary tables independently of each other, and two coating solution dripping means each for dripping the coating solution onto the coating target surface of the optical lens set on said rotary tables,

wherein said light beam radiating device emits the light beam to the optical lenses in said lens rack with said lens rack being hermetically closed;

characterized in that

    said lens rack has two cases at least one of which is disposed to be movable to come into contact with and separate from the other and which respectively store optical lenses, and biasing means for biasing said two cases to approach each other,

    said two cases being held spaced apart from each other when optical lenses coated with a coating solution are to be stored therein, and being held in contact with each other when the coating solution applied to the optical lenses is to be cured.

4. (Currently Amended) A coating apparatus for an optical lens according to claim [[1]] 2, characterized in that air in said lens rack is purged with an inert gas when the coating solution applied to the optical lenses is to be cured.

5. (Currently Amended) A coating apparatus for an optical lens ~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~

a coating device which applies a coating solution to a coating target surface of an optical lens;

a light beam radiating device which emits a light beam to the coating solution applied to the optical lens to cure the coating solution; and

a lens rack which stores a set of two optical lenses and conveys the stored optical lenses from a coating position to a curing position of the coating solution,

said coating device comprising two rotary tables where the set of two optical lenses are set each with the coating target surface thereof facing up, a driving device which rotates said

rotary tables independently of each other, and two coating solution dripping means each for dripping the coating solution onto the coating target surface of the optical lens set on said rotary tables,

wherein said light beam radiating device emits the light beam to the optical lenses in said lens rack with said lens rack being hermetically closed;

characterized in that said lens rack comprises an air exhaust channel through which internal air is exhausted and an inert gas supply channel through which an inert gas is supplied.

6. (Currently Amended) A coating apparatus for an optical lens according to claim [[1]] 3, characterized in that said coating device further comprises a spatula mechanism which removes the coating solution staying on a peripheral portion of the coating target surface of the optical lens.

7. (Currently Amended) A coating apparatus for an optical lens according to claim [[1]] 3, characterized in that said coating device further comprises a lens outer surface solution smoothening mechanism which uniforms a film thickness of the coating solution attaching to an outer surface of the optical lens.

8. (Currently Amended) A coating apparatus for an optical lens according to claim [[1]] 3, characterized in that said coating device further comprises a coating solution collection device which collects an extra coating solution that has scattered from the optical lens.

9. (Withdrawn) A lens rack employed when a coating solution applied to an optical lens is to be cured by irradiation with a light beam, characterized by comprising:

a stationary case and a movable case each having an upwardly open storing portion which stores the optical lens coated with the coating solution; and

biasing means for biasing said movable case toward said stationary case,

each of said stationary case and said movable case comprising a lens placing portion which is arranged in said storing portion and on which the optical lens is to be placed with a coating target surface thereof facing up, an exhaust channel through which air in said storing portion is exhausted, and an inert gas supply channel through which an inert gas is supplied into said storing portion, wherein air in said storing portion is purged with the inert gas when the

coating solution is to be cured.

10. (Withdrawn) A lens rack according to claim 9, characterized in that said storing portion of each of said stationary case and said movable case comprises a hole in which the optical lens is to be inserted, and at least three pin grooves each of which has one end communicating with said hole and in which pins to clamp the optical lens are to be inserted respectively, and

the hole is tapered such that a diameter thereof increases upward.

11. (Withdrawn) A lens rack according to claim 9, characterized in that said movable case and said stationary case are held spaced apart from each other when the optical lens coated with the coating solution is to be stored in each thereof, and are held in contact with each other when the coating solution is to be cured by irradiation with the light beam and when the optical lens is to be extracted from said storing portion.